HETEROPTERA RECORDING IN WALES DURING 1993 AND 1994

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The work of the National Trust's Biological Survey Team took us to a wide variety of properties scattered across Wales for much of the 1993 and 1994 field seasons. During this time we found a good selection of the local specialities as well as some surprises.

The following lists give details of the localities, and, where appropriate, additional comments on the distribution and habitat associations. Three species, *Trapezonotus ullrichi* (Fieb.), *Pachybrachius luridus* (Hahn) and *Pionosomus varius* (Wolff, J. F.), are of British Red Data Book status (Kirby, 1992a).

SOUTH-WESTERN SPECIALITIES

Enoplops scapha (F.) (Coreidae). An adult plus numerous nymphs were found on a clump of sea mayweed growing on the face of head cliffs at Porthysgo on Llŷn, Caernarvonshire (SH208264), 15.vii.1993. We are aware of no published records for this species from North Wales. However, there are two specimens from the region in the collections at Leicester Museum: Porth Ceiriad, Llŷn (SH307248), 19.viii.1985, J. H. Matthias, and 'cliffs opposite S. Stack', Anglesey, 21.ix.1980, P. Lucas. It was also seen in S. Wales during 1994 where it is well known.

Dicranocephalus agilis (Scop.) (Stenocephalidae). Adults found on the very small area of sand dune behind Traeth Penbryn, Cardiganshire (SN293524), 30.vi.1994—it is not listed for the county in Kirby & Lambert (1990). Nymphs were also found on *Euphorbia paralias* L. growing on head cliff at Deep Slade, Pwlldhu Head, Gower, Glamorganshire (SS562869), 25.vii.1994. It is best known in Cornwall and Devon, but with a good scatter of records from West Wales, especially the dunes of the Castlemartin Peninsula, Pembrokeshire (Kirby, 1992b), Carmarthenshire and Caernarvonshire (Kirby, 1991).

Trapezonotus ullrichi (Fieb.) (Lygaeidae). This species was discovered new to Wales by P. Kirby & S. Lambert on 25.vi.1990 along the south coast of the St David's Peninsula at Caerfai, Pembrokeshire, SM760253 (Kirby, 1992b). Kirby (pers. comm.) has subsequently found it on Pendine Cliffs, Carmarthenshire (SN233078), a single male on an ox-eye daisy flower beside cliff path, 15.vi.1993. A single adult was found by K.N.A.A. also on an ox-eye daisy flower in an area of notably flowery maritime grassland on Porthlysgi Cliffs at SM735235, 23.vi.1994. The association with ox-eye daisy appears to be characteristic (Alexander & Grove, 1991).

COASTAL AND HEATHLAND SPECIALITIES

Corizus hyoscyami (L.) (Rhopalidae). Well known from sand dunes in Pembrokeshire, but a small colony was found on dry seacliff grassland with the *Trapezonotus* at Porthlysgi Cliffs. These were similarly found on ox-eye daisy flowerheads.

Liorhyssus hyalinus (F.) (Rhopalidae). One taken on coastal heath, St David's Head (SM733280), 16.vi.1994; found in Pembrokeshire only once before, by S. Judd in 1985/86 (in Kirby, 1992b).

Pionosomus varius (Wolff, J. F.) (Lygaeidae). A speciality of the coastal sandhills of Kent, Pembrokeshire and Gower. Previous Gower records relate to Pennard, Llangennith and Whiteford Burrows (Kirby, 1992a) and Three Cliffs Bay (Kirby, 1993, in Fowles, 1995). The last locality is rather imprecise, but the grid reference given, SS538877, indicates the Pennard Burrows side of the bay. We can now add Nicholaston and Penmaen Burrows (SS523879 and 535881, respectively) on the western side of the bay, leaving very few of Gower's dune systems where it has not been recorded.

Plinthisus brevipennis (Latr.) (Lygaeidae). A single adult was found in open western gorse and bell heather heathland at Mynydd y Graig, Llŷn, Caernarvonshire (SH225265), 16.vii.1993. Although a common and widespread species of dry sandy heaths across the southern half of England, this appears to be scarce in Wales. The only other modern record in the north also comes from Llŷn: Mynydd Cilan, 1992, A. P. Fowles; otherwise there are only a few very old records from Anglesey and Denbighshire (M. J. Morgan, pers. comm.). Even in Pembrokeshire there is only one record (Kirby, 1992b).

Wetland specialities

Pachybrachius luridus (Hahn) (Lygaeidae). A single specimen of this Red Data Book (Kirby, 1992a) bug was taken by sweep-netting in an area of grazed mire at Bryn-y-Bont, Nantmor, Caernarvonshire (SH598461), 29.vi.1993. This area is at the uppermost end of the Glaslyn Marshes and is underlain by shallow peats and estuarine silts, formerly part of the estuary, but long-since drained and brought into agricultural use. Good quality acid mires persist here however, and are rich in both characteristic mire plants and invertebrates. *P. luridus* is mainly a New Forest species in Britain but has been found at a handful of other sites, including one other Welsh locality, Ynys-hir, Ceredigion. The Ynys-hir record was first published by Kirby (1992a) but without the details. It was actually found by A. E. Stubbs as long ago as September 1972 close to the RSPB Reserve Warden's house (SN678961). The two localities appear to be very similar in character, being mires on estuarine silts, Ynys-hir being on the Dovey Estuary.

Capsodes gothicus (L.) (Miridae). This bug was discovered in Pembrokeshire only as recently as 1988, at Cwm Dewi, Dinas (Alexander & Hawkins, 1993). We found it at two further sites along the north coast: Gernos (SN122484) and Treseissyllt (SM886363) Cliffs. It was also taken in Ceredigion at Mynachdy'r-Graig (SN554742), on *Lotus uliginosus* Schkuhr on clifftop, 28.vi.1994.

Pasture-woodlands

Xylocoris cursitans (Fallén) (Anthocoridae). Adults were found beneath bark on the stump of a recently felled ash, within pasture-woodland, Berth-lwyd Farm, Breconshire, (SN915134), 27.vii.1994; also seen at Dolmelynllyn, Merioneth (SH7222) and Erddig Park, Denbighshire (SJ326482). It has a thinly scattered and localized distribution throughout Wales, and is a good indicator of long-established pasture-woodland sites and ancient woodlands.

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BOOK REVIEW

The Dryinidae and Embolemidae (Hymenoptera: Chrysidoidea) of Fennoscandia and Denmark, by M. Olmi. *Fauna Entomologica Scandinavica* **30**, Leiden, E. J. Brill, 1994, 100 pp (including 38 colour plates), hardback, NLG 100, about £42.—This book deals with one species of Embolemidae, which has never been reared, and 34 species of Dryinidae in four subfamilies, all parasitoids of Homoptera: Auchenorrhyncha (various groups of Cicadomorpha and Fulgoromorpha). Professor Massimo Olmi's work has transformed the classification and species-level taxonomy of these two families over the past 15–20 years and he is widely respected as the world authority. As is usual for the *Fauna Entomologica Scandinavica* series, the work focuses strongly on the fauna of Fennoscandia and Denmark, but there is a large overlap with the British fauna, and it is plainly indicated in the section on distributional records that all but six of the treated species are recorded from the British Isles. Unfortunately it is not possible to tell that only five British species (*Anteon pseudohilare* Burn, *Anteon reticulatum* Kieffer, *Anteon scapulare* (Haliday), *Mystrophorus formicaeformis* Ruthe and the more doubtful *Dryinus collaris* (L.)) are not included: a shame, perhaps for all users, that this faunal summary, so clearly showing which Fennoscandian or Danish species occur in Germany and the British Isles, does not extend to indicating which species known in those neighbouring countries have yet to be found in the area of focus.

Following a short history of work on the two families in north-west Europe, there is a brief section on the classification of Chrysidoidea, and a more thorough treatment of morphology (well illustrated by line drawings and SEMs) and comparative biology that culminates in an interesting section suggesting the evolutionary ecology behind the extreme morphological specializations in the front legs of female Dryinidae (except *Aphelopus*) in relation to host capture. Then come the keys and species level treatments, in which line drawings of female chelae (except, of course, *Aphelopus* in which the structure is absent) and male genitalia are given for each species and whole insect drawings are supplied of several. A separate listing of host–parasitoid records is unfortunately presented bald, with no indication of origin,